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SOURCE T'u-sa Shin Moon.

In the past, the Korean people's desire to import Soviet culture had been suppressed by the Japanese, who prevented the Koreans from obtaining literature, music, drama, art, science, and technology from the USSR. The liberation finally brought Soviet culture into North Korea. A democratization of the Korean classics along with a rapid assimilation of the Soviet culture followed. The elimination of the old influence of the compulsory, but never brilliant, Japanese culture was also speedily accomplished.

As a result, 2,300,000 illiterates were acculturated, and thousands of new technicians and skilled craftsmen arose from the ranks of the common laborers. In the agriculture and marine industries the constantly advancing industrial techniques were directly rewarded by the progressive increase of production.

In August 1948, a group of Soviet scholars arrived in North Korea. They met with the top-ranking Korean scholars and students and introduced current Soviet culture and science in exchange for the Korean classics. Last year, the Soviet-Korea Cultural Society translated and published 20 USSR literary works and many scientific articles. The Society also helped organize various types of clubs for the appreciation of Soviet life, culture, and science through lectures, exhibitions, and discussions. These clubs now number 60,000.

The cultural exchange between the USSR and Korea cements the friendship of the two nations. The cultural intercourse is indispensable for the mutual understanding of the nations, which in turn is important for a strong political tie. Conversely, any dependable military, political, or economic alliance between two nations can be found only in a situation where a steady exchange of culture exists.

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